

Amendments to the claims

1. – 16. (cancelled)

17. (original) A data input system with which a user can input letters of an alphabet, comprising a keypad having an array of three columns and at least three rows of numeric keys (72), and four further keys (76) each disposed between a respective four of the numeric keys such that the user can operate each of the further keys in combination with one or two of the respective four adjacent surrounding numeric keys; and decoding means (42) operable to interpret operation of the further keys each in combination with one or two of the respective four surrounding numeric keys as representing respective letters of the alphabet.

18. (currently amended) A data input system as claimed in claim ~~8~~ or 17, wherein the numeric keys are arranged to provide a different feel to the user than the further keys.

19. (currently amended) A data input system as claimed in ~~any of claims 8,~~ claim 17 [or 18], wherein the decoding means is operable to interpret operation of the numeric keys as representing respective digits of the denary number system.

20. (cancelled)

21. (currently amended) An electronic apparatus ~~such as a mobile telephone, PDA or computer~~ having a data input system ~~as claimed in any preceding claim for inputting data to the apparatus with which a user can input letters of an alphabet, the data input system comprising a keypad having an array of three columns and at least three rows of numeric keys (72), and four further keys (76) each disposed between a respective four of the numeric keys such that the user can operate each of the further keys in combination with one or two of the respective four adjacent surrounding numeric keys; and decoding means (42) operable to interpret operation of the further keys each in combination with one or two of the respective four surrounding numeric keys as representing respective letters of the alphabet.~~

22. (new) An electronic apparatus as claimed in claim 21, wherein the apparatus is selected from the group consisting of a mobile telephone, a PDA and a computer.

23. (new) A data input system as claimed in claim 17, wherein each further key is arranged to be operable by the user in combination with one or two of the respective four adjacent surrounding numeric keys in a single operation, and the decoding means is operable to interpret such single

operations of the keys as representing the letters of the alphabet.

24. (new) A data input system as claimed in claim 18, wherein the further keys are each smaller in area than each of the numeric keys.

25. (new) A data input system as claimed in claim 18, wherein the further keys stand proud of the numeric keys.

26. (new) A data input system as claimed in claim 18, wherein operation of the further keys is stiffer than operation of the numeric keys.

27. (new) A data input system as claimed in claim 17, wherein the numeric keys that are operable to represent the vowels of the alphabet are arranged in the same column or the same row of the array.